



## WEEK 9 : CHRIST

Question: Why do you think there is still so much Old Testament in the Bible?

Our journey through the Bible has taken eight weeks before getting to Jesus. Considering it is the Christian Bible that we are reading through, this can seem strange. Most of our Scripture was written before Jesus was born. But, as we have been discovering, all of it is about Jesus.

The following is a quote by the Bible teacher Timothy Keller, which helps to show how the Old Testament reveals realities about Jesus that we couldn't otherwise know. Read through the quote and look up the references before moving on to the study.

“Jesus is the true and better Adam, who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us (1 Corinthians 15). Jesus is the true and better Abel, who, though innocently slain, has blood that cries out for our acquittal, not our condemnation (Hebrews 12:24). Jesus is the true and better Abraham, who answered the call of God to leave the comfortable and familiar and go out into the void “not knowing whither he went” to create a new people of God. Jesus is the true and better Isaac, who was not just offered up by his father on the mount but was truly sacrificed for us all. God said to Abraham, “Now I know you love me, because you did not withhold your son, your only son whom you love, from me.” Now we can say to God, “Now we know that you love us, because you did not

withhold your son, your only son whom you love, from us.” Jesus is the true and better Jacob, who wrestled with God and took the blow of justice we deserved so that we, like Jacob, receive only the wounds of grace to wake us up and discipline us. Jesus is the true and better Joseph, who at the right hand of the King forgives those who betrayed and sold him and uses his new power to save them. Jesus is the true and better Moses, who stands in the gap between the people and the Lord and who mediates a new covenant (Hebrews 3). Jesus is the true and better rock of Moses, who, struck with the rod of God’s justice, now gives us water in the desert. Jesus is the true and better Job—the truly innocent sufferer—who then intercedes for and saves his stupid friends (Job 42). Jesus is the true and better David, whose victory becomes his people’s victory, though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves. Jesus is the true and better Esther, who didn’t just risk losing an earthly palace but lost the ultimate heavenly one, who didn’t just risk his life but gave his life—to save his people. Jesus is the true and better Jonah, who was cast out into the storm so we could be brought in.” — Timothy J. Keller, [Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism](#)

What is your initial reaction to Keller’s comments?

What do you think he means by the phrase ‘true and better’

\* \* \*

In John's gospel we are presented with seven "I am" statements made by Jesus, all of which are rooted in the Old Testament.

1. "I am the living bread." ([John 6:35, 41, 48, 51](#))
2. "I am the light of the world." ([John 8:12](#))
3. "I am the door of the sheep." ([John 10:7,9](#))
4. "I am the resurrection and the life." ([John 11:25](#))
5. "I am the good shepherd." ([John 10:11, 14](#))
6. "I am the way, the truth, and the life." ([John 14:6](#))
7. "I am the true vine." ([John 15:1, 5](#))

What is the significance of the phrase "I am"? (see Exodus 3)

Choose any of the statements and, using a concordance, online Bible or mobile Bible app, search for the words in Jesus's statement to see if you can discover what Old Testament passages/ideas Jesus was referring to.

The Jesus we find in the New Testament can only be fully made sense of if we have all the 'clues' the Old Testament give us. The following Bible study questions from Vaughn Roberts' book 'God's Big Picture' help us get to grips with this...

**Read Luke 1:39-80 and 2:25-32**

What do the words of Mary, Zechariah and Simeon teach us about the salvation Jesus brings?

How do they point to the fulfilment of the following Old Testament passages?

- Genesis 12:1-3
- 2 Samuel 7:11-16
- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Isaiah 42:5-7
- Isaiah 49:5-7
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Malachi 3:1

How should we respond?